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Science Applications International Corporation
An Employee-Owned Company

11 September 2000

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20544

Reference : Ultra-Wideband; ET Docket 98-153
Comments

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Dear Ms. Salas :

I am writing to urge the FCC to move forward promptly in making a decision on the Notice of Proposed Rule Making on ultra-wideband radio. As an advanced technology program manager and senior scientist at Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) for more than 15 years, I have been fortunate to work on many innovative technologies with revolutionary potential. My experience makes me strongly believe that the ultra-wideband radio has the potential to be one of those unique impact technologies that has many revolutionary commercial and military applications.

In a review of RF technologies, we selected the ultra-wideband as the most promising for use in a low probability of intercept and low probability of jamming short range wireless network. This assessment lead us to select the technology for our DARPA-sponsored Self-Healing Anti-Tank Minefield (SHM) program. Successful development and demonstration of the SHM is critical if the United States is to eliminate the need for anti-personnel landmines in mixed systems, potentially allowing us to sign the Ottawa Treaty. In addition, there are many other military applications (especially in the area of robotics) for which the ultra-wideband radios provide a critical capability for the future U.S. soldier. And finally, there are literally hundreds of commercial "spin off" applications for a short-range, wide bandwidth, wireless network that can accurately track position. While the military applications may be able to move forward without the FCC Rule Making, the commercial application for this technology will be inhibited if the FCC does not act promptly on the Notice of Proposed Rule Making. I strongly believe that without an FCC ruling, the technology development will be delayed.

In summary, I am very excited about the potential of the ultra-wideband technology. I am also pleased that the FCC has issued the Notice of Proposed Rule Making on the technology; however, because of the rapid pace of change in the communications technology, it is critical that the FCC to act as quickly as possible in ruling on this technology.

Sincerely,


Glenn Rolader, Ph.D.

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